



Times staff photo by J. MICHAEL SHORT

Albertsons Store Director Jesse Castillo swings at the big "A" piñata at the opening ceremony for the new Albertsons store on Del Mar Boulevard Wednesday morning.

# Supersize market opens doors

By JIM PARISH  
Times staff writer

Albertsons ribbon cutting ceremony Wednesday united the many Laredoans in attendance with corporate executives and 175 new store employees, in a spirit of optimism. The supersize store is at the intersection of Del Mar Boulevard and IH 35.

David Jerry, Albertsons South Texas division manager said, "It is really exciting to be welcomed at eight in the morning by such a wonderful crowd of well wishers. We were a long time in coming to

Laredo. From now on, we will be open every day of the week from 7 a.m. to midnight."

Jerry thanked property owners, Jay, Robert and Del Trautmann; Mayor Saul Ramirez; Chamber of Commerce board chairman Sabas Zapata; and the store employees for special cooperation.

From the corporate headquarters in Boise, Idaho, he introduced Albertson's president John Carley; Gary Michael, board chairman and chief executive officer; and Dick King, group vice president. The firm has 679 stores in 19 states and is steadily expanding.

Thirty-two stores are in the South Texas division, with headquarters in San Antonio. Laredo is the southernmost city into which Albertsons has extended.

Store Manager Jesse Castillo won laughter and applause on breaking a huge pinata. A Texas native, he grew up in Pearsall. During seven years with Albertsons he served in San Antonio and Dallas before putting the Laredo store into operation. He and his wife, Lisa, have three children. On their behalf, he stressed pleasure in moving back to Laredo.